HANSON BRIDGETT LLP RAFFI V. ZEROUNIAN, SBN 236388 rzerounian@hansonbridgett.com JUSTIN P. THIELE, SBN 311787 Jthiele@hansonbridgett.com 777 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 4200 Los Angeles, California 90017 Telephone: (213) 395-7620 Facsimile: (213) 395-7615 5 Attorneys for Plaintiff LYMI Inc. 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, WESTERN DIVISION 10 LYMI Inc., Case No. 2:24-cy-4564 11 Plaintiff, Complaint for 12 1) Copyright Infringement 13 v. 2) Lanham Act False Advertising 3) Lanham Act Registered Few Moda Inc., Trademark Infringement 14 4) Lanham Act Common-Law Defendant. Trademark Infringement 15 5) California False or Misleading Statements 16 6) California Trademark 17 Infringement 7) California Common Law Unfair 18 Competition **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** 19 20 Plaintiff LYMI Inc., doing business as Reformation ("Reformation" or 21 "Plaintiff"), for its complaint against Few Moda Inc. ("Few Moda" or "Defendant") alleges, upon personal knowledge with respect to itself and its acts and upon 22 23 information and belief as to all others, as follows. 24 **Nature of Action** 25 1. Plaintiff Reformation is a fashion brand that is a leader in sustainable 26 and quality fashion based in the Los Angeles area, founded in 2009 and operating 27 approximately 50 retail stores in the United States, Canada, and the United 28 Kingdom. Reformation has garnered a reputation for innovative, stylish designs that

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are produced with a concern for sustainability, equitable treatment of workers, and the environment. Reformation's products feature original designs that it creates inhouse. Defendant Few Moda is a competing clothing brand that operates in the space of "fast fashion." This action arises from Few Moda's infringement of Reformation's original copyright-protected fashion-print designs by the sale of unauthorized copies on competing merchandise. Few Moda's actionable conduct is also coupled with Few Moda's trademark infringement and false or misleading statements that target Reformation in Few Moda's product listings, specifically unsubstantiated claims that Few Moda's products are sourced from the "same manufacturer as Reformation." In short, Few Moda has breached the bounds of fair competition by deliberately trading off of Reformation's original copyrightprotected works and the goodwill and consumer recognition embodied in Reformation's trademarks and brand identity while also making false or misleading statements about the quality of its products as compared to Reformation's. Because of Few Moda's blatant conduct, Reformation is compelled to bring this action to protect its valuable, original works of creative expression as well as the goodwill embodied in its trademarks from Few Moda's unfair competition.

#### **Parties**

- 2. Plaintiff Reformation, under the name LYMI Inc., is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business in Vernon, California.
- 3. Defendant Few Moda is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business in New York, New York.

#### **Jurisdiction and Venue**

4. This is an action for infringement of copyright in violation of 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*, and for false advertising, trademark infringement, and unfair competition in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 1114 and 1125(a)(1). The Court has

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- United States Copyright Act pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a). The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of Plaintiff's claims for relief arising under the United States Lanham Act pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1121 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a). The Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of Plaintiff's state law claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367 because they form part of the same case or controversy as Plaintiff's federal law claims.
- 5. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Few Moda because its infringing products and false or misleading statements, including those infringing products and statements which are the subject of this action, were distributed in and expressly marketed to California residents and retailers, and in particular residents of this district.
- 6. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a) because Few Moda resides or may be found in this district. Venue is also proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) and (b)(2) because Few Moda is considered to reside in this district and because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Reformation's claims occurred in this district.

# Allegations Common to All Claims for Relief

Reformation and its Copyright-Protected Designs

- Reformation is a designer, manufacturer, and retailer of fashion and 7. apparel. Reformation creates numerous original fabric and print designs which it uses to manufacture clothing that it sells on its website and its own brick-and-mortar stores throughout the United States. Reformation's clothing and designs have garnered a reputation for quality and originality.
- Reformation is the author and owner of the following original, 8. copyright-protected works, which are the subject of corresponding registrations with the United States Copyright Office:

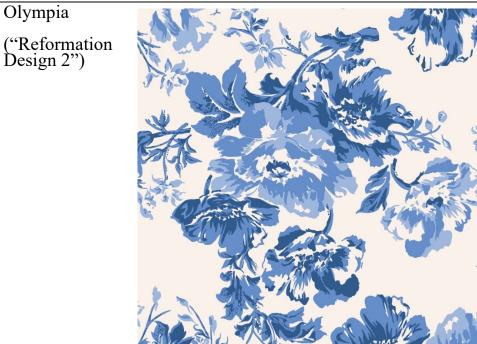
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**Reformation Design** Reg. No. Name VA0002317840 Splatter

("Reformation Design 1")

VA0002317860



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Reg. No. Name **Reformation Design** Orange Grove VA0002318468 ("Reformation Design 7") 

(collectively, all the "Reformation Designs").

9. Reformation has widely disseminated the Reformation Designs, including but not limited to third parties in the fashion industry and through retail advertising, display, and sales of its products.

# Reformation and its Trademarks

- 10. Reformation is the owner of the REFORMATION trademark (the "REFORMATION" Mark), which it has used since at least as early as 2008 in United States commerce in connection with goods including clothing and apparel, services including its online and brick-and-mortar retail stores, and related goods and services.
- 11. The REFORMATION Mark is the subject of United States Trademark Reg. Nos. 4111272 and 4114140 (the "REFORMATION Registrations"). True and correct copies of the REFORMATION Registrations and printouts of the current

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status from the United States Patent and Trademark Office database are attached to
this Complaint as <b>Exhibit 1</b> . The REFORMATION Registrations are incontestable.
Reformation also owns common law trademark rights in the REFORMATION Mark
due to its longstanding and widespread use of the mark as an indicator of source
throughout the United States.

12. Reformation is the owner of additional marks which include the names of its products or its original designs. These include the marks which form the names of the Reformation Designs, namely, SPLATTER, OLYMPIA, LEMONADE, LEMON DROP, CLARISSA, POSIE, and ORANGE GROVE. Reformation owns common-law trademark rights in these marks due to its longstanding and widespread uses of the marks as indicators of source throughout the United States.

# Few Moda's Infringement of Reformation's Copyright-Protected Designs

- 13. Few Moda created, manufactured, distributed, offered for sale, and sold fabrics or garments featuring designs (the "Accused Designs") that are substantially similar, strikingly similar, or identical to the Reformation Designs, without license, authorization, or consent from Reformation, and continues to do so.
- 14. Few Moda created and sold multiple garments bearing the Accused Designs, as multiple colorways of specific garments (the "Accused Products"), and continues to do so. Accordingly, each of the Accused Products contain multiple garments which infringe the copyright rights in a specific Reformation Design.
- 15. When compared side-by-side in the following representative and non-exhaustive illustrations, it is clear that the Accused Designs produced and sold on Accused Products by Few Moda copy the original, protectable expression found in the Reformation Designs:

# Reformation Design 1 Splatter



Reformation Design 2 Olympia



"Accused Design 1" Navy Polka Dot



"Accused Design 2"
Blue Toile



# Lemonade Reformation Design 4

**Reformation Design 3** 





"Accused Design 3" Lemon Print



"Accused Design 4"
Black Fruit Print



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"Accused Design 5" **Reformation Design 5** She's Picky Dress Clarissa **Reformation Design 6** "Accused Design 6" Posie **Babysbreath Top Black Floral** 

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**Reformation Design 7** 



16. Many Few Moda products bearing the Accused Designs are currently advertised and available for sale on Few Moda's ecommerce website at fewmoda.com as of the date of this Complaint.

17. In at least one instance, Few Moda has specifically advertised its products bearing the Accused Designs with names that are identical to the names used by Reformation for the Reformation Designs. For example, Few Moda has advertised products on Instagram bearing Accused Design 7 with the print name "Orange Grove"—which is identical to the ORANGE GROVE mark used by Reformation for products featuring Reformation Design 7 and the title under which Reformation Design 7 is registered with the Copyright Office (highlighted to emphasize):



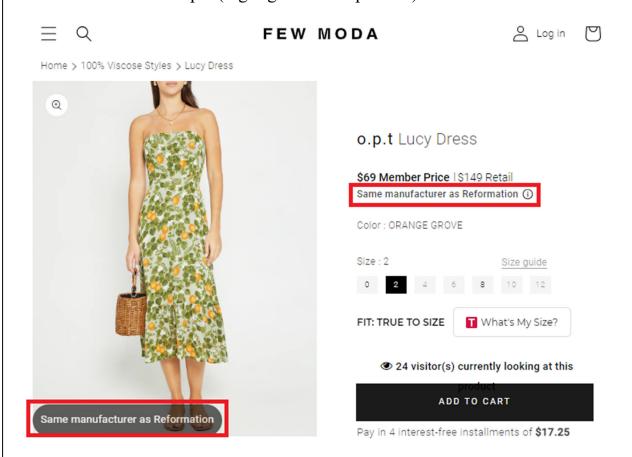
- 18. Few Moda's use of identical names in public advertising for its infringing Accused Designs in certain contexts supports an inference that Few Moda's copyright infringement was done with full knowledge of Reformation's rights in the Reformation Designs, and therefore is willful.
- 19. The elements, composition, arrangement, layout, and appearance of the graphical elements of the Accused Designs on the Accused Products are substantially similar to the corresponding Reformation Designs.
- 20. Additionally, Few Moda's use of Reformation's common-law ORANGE GROVE mark is likely to cause confusion, deception, or mistake on the part of consumers as to the origin, sponsorship, or approval of Few Moda's goods or the existence of an affiliation, connection, or association between Few Moda and Reformation's ORANGE GROVE mark, and Few Moda will unjustly benefit from such deception or confusion.

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# Few Moda' False or Misleading Statements Regarding its Manufacturers and Unauthorized use of REFORMATION Mark

- 21. Few Moda maintains an ecommerce website for its products at fewmoda.com. Many of the product listings for apparel offered at Few Moda's website contain statements that reference Reformation by using the REFORMATION Mark.
- 22. On certain of Few Moda's product listings on its website (including but not limited to some of the Accused Products), Few Moda prints the following statement which includes the REFORMATION Mark: "Same manufacturer as Reformation." For example (highlighted to emphasize):

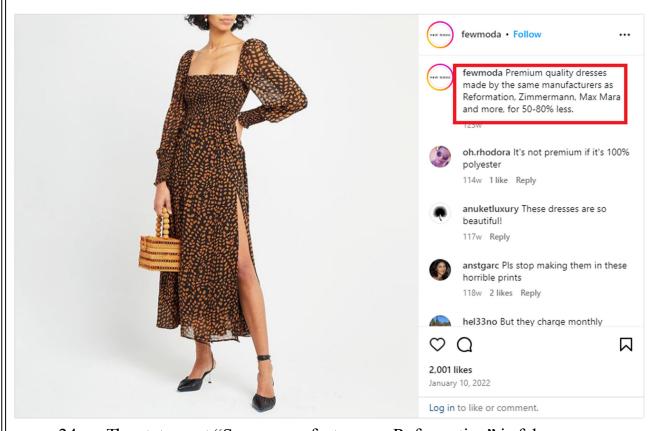


23. Additionally, Few Moda repeats the "Same manufacturer as Reformation" claim in its advertising materials outside its website, including in posts on its social media accounts including Instagram. For example, the following Instagram post on an account controlled by Few Moda advertises "Premium quality

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dresses **made by the same manufacturers as Reformation** ... for 50-80% less" (emphases added):



- 24. The statement "Same manufacturer as Reformation" is false or misleading. On information and belief, the manufacturers of Few Moda's products are not the same as those used by Reformation during the times which Few Moda's statement has been published on Few Moda's website. Additionally, the statement "Same manufacturer as Reformation" will be interpreted by potential customers as a material indication of the level of quality of Few Moda's goods in a manner that may be false or misleading.
- 25. On information and belief, Few Moda deliberately published the statement "Same manufacturer as Reformation" in order to unfair gain a competitive advantage against Reformation.
- 26. The statement "Same manufacturer as Reformation" is the type of statement that would materially influence a potential purchaser of Few Moda's goods.

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- Few Moda published and distributed the statement "Same manufacturer 27. as Reformation" in interstate commerce in connection with the commercial advertising or promotion of its goods.
- The statement "Same manufacturer as Reformation" was published 28. widely, available nationwide and worldwide on the internet via Few Moda's website.
- 29. Few Moda's use of the REFORMATION Mark in the statement "Same manufacturer as Reformation" is likely to cause confusion, deception, or mistake on the part of consumers as to the origin, sponsorship, or approval of Few Moda's goods or the existence of an affiliation, connection, or association between Few Moda and Reformation, and Few Moda will unjustly benefit from such deception or confusion.
- 30. On information and belief, Few Moda deliberately used the REFORMATION Mark in the statement "Same manufacturer as Reformation" in order to create such deception or confusion among consumers to the benefit of its own products.
- 31. Few Moda's use of the REFORMATION Mark in connection with the false or misleading statement "Same manufacturer as Reformation" will unjustly increase the profitability and commercial success of Few Moda's products to the detriment of Reformation and at no cost to Few Moda.
- 32. Few Moda's use of the REFORMATION Mark in connection with the false or misleading statements in the statement "Same manufacturer as Reformation" will also diminish the value of the REFORMATION Mark and the goodwill, reputation, and standing embodied therein.
- Unless restrained by this Court, Few Moda will unfairly compete with 33. Reformation by use of the REFORMATION MARK in connection with the statement "Same manufacturer as Reformation" and Reformation is otherwise without adequate remedy at law.

#### FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

# (Copyright Infringement under 17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.)

- 34. Reformation restates the foregoing paragraphs as if set forth here in full as part of this claim for relief.
- 35. Reformation is the exclusive owner of all copyright rights in the Reformation Designs.
- 36. Few Moda had access to the Reformation Designs including but not limited to through access to Reformation's publicly-available online webstore and by access to actual, physical goods in the marketplace bearing the Reformation Designs.
- 37. The Accused Designs are identical or substantially similar to the Reformation Designs, or are unauthorized derivative works of the Reformation Designs.
- 38. Few Moda infringed Reformation's copyright rights through the conduct alleged herein, including but not limited to creating copies, creating derivative works, and manufacturing, distributing, and selling the Accused Products bearing the Accused Designs without authorization or license from Reformation.
- 39. Few Moda's infringement was willful and intentional. Few Moda was aware of Reformation and the Reformation Designs, and was aware that it did not have a right, authorization, permission, or license to copy, create derivative works, distribute, or sell the Accused Products bearing the Accused Designs.
- 40. Reformation has been or is likely to be injured and suffer damages as a result of Few Moda's infringement of the Reformation Designs, including but not limited to lost sales or licensing revenue, in an amount to be established at trial.
- 41. Due to Few Moda's infringement, Few Moda has gained profits that it would not have absent Few Moda's infringement of the Reformation Designs.

  Accordingly, Reformation is entitled to disgorgement of Few Moda's profits from the Accused Products attributable to the infringement.

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42. Because at least some of the Reformation Designs were registered at the United States Copyright Office either before the commencement of Few Moda's infringement or within three months of publication of the Reformation Designs, Reformation is entitled to recovery of statutory damages, attorney's fees, and costs.

#### SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

# (Federal False Advertising under 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)(1)(B))

- 43. Reformation restates the foregoing paragraphs as if set forth here in full as part of this claim for relief.
- 44. Few Moda's above-averred actions constitute use in interstate commerce of false or misleading descriptions of facts concerning Few Moda's goods in connection with Few Moda's commercial advertising or promotion of its competing products, and Reformation has been and is likely to be damaged by these acts.
- 45. Few Moda's statements have actually misled or have a tendency to mislead a substantial segment of consumers, and have resulted in the sale of Few Moda's products in competition with Reformation.
- 46. Few Moda's false or misleading statements are material and likely to influence the purchasing decisions of consumers.
- 47. Reformation has been or is likely to be injured and suffer damages as a result of Few Moda's false or misleading statements, including but not limited to by direct diversion of sales from Reformation to Few Moda or by damaging the goodwill Reformation has generated in its goods.
- 48. Few Moda has obtained and continues to obtain unjust profits as a result of these false or misleading statements. Reformation is entitled to recover such profits.

#### THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

### (Lanham Act Trademark Infringement under 15 U.S.C. § 1114)

- 49. Reformation restates the foregoing paragraphs as if set forth here in full as part of this claim for relief.
  - 50. Reformation is the owner of the registered REFORMATION Mark.
- 51. Few Moda's above-averred actions constitute use in commerce of the registered REFORMATION Mark in connection with the sale, offering for sale, distribution, or advertising of Few Moda's goods in a manner that is likely to cause confusion, to cause mistake, or to deceive, including but not limited to as to affiliation, connection, or association of Few Moda with Reformation or as to the origin, sponsorship, or approval of the goods offered in connection therewith. Reformation has been and is likely to be damaged by these acts.
- 52. Few Moda's acts greatly and irreparably damage Reformation and will continue to damage Reformation unless restrained by this Court. Reformation is without an adequate remedy at law in that the amount of damages is difficult to ascertain with certainty. Accordingly, Reformation is entitled to, among other relief, an order permanently enjoining and restraining Few Moda from using the REFORMATION Mark.
- 53. As a result of Few Moda's infringement, Reformation has suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 54. Reformation is further entitled to recover Few Moda's profits attributable to its infringement of Reformation's trademark rights.
- 55. Few Moda's actions as described above are deliberate, willful, fraudulent, and without any extenuating circumstances, and constitute a knowing violation of Reformation's rights. Reformation is therefore entitled to recover three times the amount of its actual damages, and attorney's fees and costs incurred in this action, as this is an "exceptional" case under the Lanham Act.

#### FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

# (Lanham Act Trademark Infringement under 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)(1)(A))

- 56. Reformation restates the foregoing paragraphs as if set forth here in full as part of this claim for relief.
- 57. Reformation is the owner of the trademarks REFORMATION, SPLATTER, OLYMPIA, LEMONADE, LEMON DROP, CLARISSA, POSIE, and ORANGE GROVE, which it has used in United States commerce as indicators of source.
- 58. Few Moda's above-averred actions constitute use in commerce of the REFORMATION mark and ORANGE GROVE mark in connection with the sale, offering for sale, distribution, or advertising of Few Moda's goods in a manner that is likely to cause confusion, to cause mistake, or to deceive, including but not limited to as to affiliation, connection, or association of Few Moda with Reformation or as to the origin, sponsorship, or approval of the goods offered in connection therewith. Reformation has been and is likely to be damaged by these acts.
- 59. Few Moda's acts greatly and irreparably damage Reformation and will continue to damage Reformation unless restrained by this Court. Reformation is without an adequate remedy at law in that the amount of damages is difficult to ascertain with certainty. Accordingly, Reformation is entitled to, among other relief, an order permanently enjoining and restraining Few Moda from using the REFORMATION mark, ORANGE GROVE mark, or any other trademark owned by Reformation.
- 60. As a result of Few Moda's infringement, Reformation has suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 61. Reformation is further entitled to recover Few Moda's profits attributable to its infringement of Reformation's trademark rights.

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62. Few Moda's actions as described above are deliberate, willful, fraudulent, and without any extenuating circumstances, and constitute a knowing violation of Reformation's rights. Reformation is therefore entitled to recover three times the amount of its actual damages, and attorney's fees and costs incurred in this action, as this is an "exceptional" case under the Lanham Act.

#### FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

# (False or Misleading Statements under Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500)

- 63. Reformation restates the foregoing paragraphs as if set forth here in full as part of this claim for relief.
- 64. Few Moda's above-averred actions constitute the dissemination and making of untrue or misleading statements in connection with the sale or disposition of Few Moda's goods, which by the exercise of reasonable case should have been known to be false or misleading.
- 14 65. The conduct of Few Moda as alleged herein was purposeful and
  15 intentional and was engaged in for the purpose of depriving Reformation of property
  16 or legal rights or otherwise causing injury, and was despicable conduct that
  17 subjected Reformation to cruel and unjust hardship in conscious disregard of its
  18 rights, and was performed with fraud, oppression, or malice so as to justify an award
  19 of exemplary or punitive damages against Few Moda in an amount to be proven at
  20 trial.

#### SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

# (California Unfair Competition under Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200)

66. Reformation restates the foregoing paragraphs as if set forth here in full as part of this claim for relief.

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67. Few Moda's above-averred actions related to false or misleading statements and use of the REFORMATION Mark and ORANGE GROVE mark constitute unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business practices.

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1	68. As a direct and proximate result of the above-described deceptive trade
2	practices, Reformation has suffered and is suffering irreparable injury. Reformation
3	will continue to suffer irreparable injury unless the Court enters an appropriate
4	injunction.
5	SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
6	(California Common Law Trademark Infringement)
7	69. Reformation restates the foregoing paragraphs as if set forth here in full
8	as part of this claim for relief.
9	70. Few Moda's above-averred actions related to use of the
10	REFORMATION Mark and ORANGE GROVE mark constitute infringement and
11	passing off in violation of the common law of California.
12	EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
13	(California Common Law Unfair Competition)
14	71. Reformation restates the foregoing paragraphs as if set forth here in full
15	as part of this claim for relief.
16	72. Few Moda's above-averred actions related to false or misleading
17	statements and use of the REFORMATION Mark and ORANGE GROVE mark in
18	commerce constitute a false designation of origin in violation of the common law of
19	California.
20	73. Few Moda has misappropriated for itself the commercial value of the
21	REFORMATION Mark and ORANGE GROVE mark in conscious disregard of
22	Reformation's rights, and have impaired the value of Reformation's goodwill in its
23	marks among consumers.
24	74. In conducting such acts, Few Moda is guilty of oppression, fraud, or
25	malice, as defined in Cal. Civ. Code. § 3294.
26	PRAYER FOR RELIEF
27	Plaintiff Reformation prays that judgment be entered against Defendant Few
28	Moda as follows:
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- 1. That Few Moda, its principals, officers, partners, franchisees, agents, employees, licensees, affiliates, distributors, producers, any parent and subsidiary company, attorney and representatives, and all of those in privity with or acting under their direction or pursuant to their control, be preliminarily and permanently enjoined and restrained from directly or indirectly:
  - To immediately and forever cease all use of the Accused Designs or any designs that infringe the Reformation Designs;
  - b. To immediately and forever cease all infringing use of Reformation's trademarks;
  - c. To remove all false and misleading information from its websites and other promotional material; and
  - d. To publish corrective advertising.
  - 2. That Few Moda be required to:
    - a. Account for and pay to Reformation all profits derived by its acts of infringement, false advertising, and unfair competition;
    - b. Pay to Reformation the amount of all damages incurred by Reformation as a result of Few Moda's acts of infringement, false advertising, and unfair competition, including that such damages be increased due to the willful nature of Few Moda's infringement;
    - c. Pay to Reformation statutory damages under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 504, including that such damages be increased due to the willful nature of Few Moda's infringement;
    - d. Pay to Reformation the costs of this action, together with reasonable attorney's fees and disbursements, in accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 1117, 17 U.S.C. § 505, and Cal. Civ. Code § 1021.5;
    - e. Pay to Reformation exemplary and punitive damages by reason of Defendant's acts of unfair competition, in accordance with

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1	Demand for Jury Trial
2	Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 38 and Local Rule 38-1, Plaintiff LYMI Inc.
3	demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.
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5	DATED: May 31, 2024 HANSON BRIDGETT LLP
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8	By: /s/ Raffi V. Zerounian  RAFFI V. ZEROUNIAN
9	JUSTIN P. THIELE
10	Attorneys for Plaintiff LYMI Inc.
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